

81. The polypeptide of claim 80, which polypeptide includes amino acids 23-198 of SEQ ID No: 17.

82. The polypeptide of claim 80, which polypeptide includes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 17.

83. A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 17 or an N-terminal fragment thereof having a molecular weight of about 19 kD, which polypeptide binds to a *patched* protein.

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84. The polypeptide of claim 83, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17.

85. A polypeptide consisting of a *hedgehog* polypeptide which is at least 98 percent identical to either SEQ ID No: 17 or an N-terminal fragment thereof having a molecular weight of about 19 kD, which *hedgehog* polypeptide binds to a *patched* protein or promotes proliferation of testicular germ line cells.

86. A polypeptide comprising a *hedgehog* amino acid sequence which is at least 98 percent identical to SEQ ID No: 17, which *hedgehog* amino acid sequence binds to a *patched* protein or promotes proliferation of testicular germ line cells.

#### **REMARKS**

Pursuant to the Examiner's withdrawal of the restriction requirement between peptides and nucleic acids, Applicants present the new claims directed to polypeptides. Because these claims correspond closely in scope to the allowed nucleic acid claims, Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to present claims of broader scope in subsequent applications.

#### **CONCLUSION**